

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 DRC-01

PA-04 PRS-01 IO-14 /159 W
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O R 011905Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6384

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0682

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: SIMONET'S REACTIONS TO US VIEWS

ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. I CAUGHT EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET FOR A FEW MINUTES IMMEDIATELY ON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 1 TO GET HIS REACTIONS TO THE US VIEWS ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE (STATE 19381). UNLIKE SOAMES (EC BRUSSELS 652), SIMONET WAS NEITHER SURPRISED NOR DISTURBED BY OUR SUGGESTIONS. HE RECALLED THAT IN OUR
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EARLIER CONVERSATION (EC BRUSSELS 381) WE HAD TALKED ABOUT

ORTOLI'S DESIRE TO PUT MORE STRESS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM. IN HIS VIEW, THE US IDEAS AND THE COMMISSION PAPER AS IT WAS PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENTS (EC BRUSSELS 515) WERE ENTIRELY COMPATIBLE.

2. SIMONET CONFIRMED THAT SOAMES HAD TAKEN THE POSITION IN THE COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS THAT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WOULD BE PRIMARILY POLITICAL AND PROCEDURAL (EC BRUSSELS 652). HOWEVER, SIMONET HAD NOT SHARED THIS VIEW AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WAS AFRAID THAT SOME OF THE MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS, WITH VARYING MOTIVATIONS, MIGHT TAKE THE SAME LINE AS SOAMES.

3. NEVERTHELESS, SIMONET WAS NOT REPEAT NOT DISCOURAGED ABOUT ACHIEVING CONSTRUCTIVE EC PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE WOULD SPEND THE WEEKEND WORKING ON A DRAFT AIMED AT BRINGING TOGETHER THE US VIEWS AND THE COMMISSION PAPER.

4. AS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL, THE EC PERMREPS HAVE CHARGED THE GERMAN CHAIRMAN AND THE COMMISSION WITH PREPARATION OF A NEW PAPER FOR THE FEBRUARY 4-5 COUNCIL MEETING.
GREENWALD

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